

Tricia Melillo

From: RobinM <melodyofharpists@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 5, 2022 12:07 PM
To: James Gray; Regina Birdsell; Ruth Ward; Donna Soucy; Rebecca Perkins Kwoka; Tricia Melillo
Subject: Redistricting bills | please amend maps | Support Fair District Maps

Honorable Members of the NH Senate Committee on Election Law and Municipal Affairs:

Please support fair district maps and oppose all bills that would result in gerrymandering.

As a Nashville poet was recently moved to write in a national newspaper, **gerrymandering is so widespread and so undemocratic that it has become a national tragedy.**

For a nonpartisan evaluation of maps under consideration , see [Open Democracy's Analysis](#) of Proposed Congressional Map (HB52) w/o Amendment, & NH House Maps (HB50) with Senate's Amendment 2022-0339s

The Analysis's "General NH House Map Takeaways" include:

"It is the responsibility of the legislature to define districts based on principles of equality rather than partisan advantage. **Several aspects of the current proposed districts appear to be designed for partisan advantage.**"

I also urge you to read (or reread) last fall's letters from [Suzanne Brown of Etna, NH](#) and from [former State Representative Chris Muns of Hampton](#), both of which are posted on the Senate Special Committee on Redistricting's "[Bills and Submissions](#)" website. These two writers are unknown to me, but I agree wholeheartedly with their concerns for the devastation that gerrymandering wreaks on our democracy:

"...I consider partisan gerrymandering one of the most destructive forces threatening our state, our country, and our democracy. Districts drawn to be 'safe' for one party encourage extreme positions and discourage the negotiation and compromise on which I believe our strength and unity depend."

and:

“There is nothing more central to our representative democracy than voters believing the process they must follow to elect their representatives if transparent and fair.... You need to stop the practice of creating safe Republican and safe Democratic districts.”

The proposed redistricting tinkers with a political agenda in mind: To remove representation with an equal voice for all voters so that one party might benefit. To remove the natural competition that is a hallmark of democracy. In other words, gerrymandering.

Again, I urge you to support fair district maps and oppose all bills that would result in gerrymandering.

With thanks for your dedication to safeguarding New Hampshire democracy,

Robin Mower
Durham, NH

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